National Catholic Theater Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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Though a mid-summer issue of the Production Calendar was not scheduled, it makes a demand appearance. The quantity of news coming to National Headquarters is not only proof that you like to receive the monthly bulletin; to us it is assurance that you are forming the habit of sending us news of your dramatic activities. To those groups who have not already done so, may we suggest that you place NCTC at the head of your mailing list for all publicity.

Telephone Circle 7-0236

316 West 57 Street, New York Established 1937

FORDHAM'S SUMMER SEMINAR

The Fordham Seminar of Theater Practice will culminate in an American premiere of Calderon's "All the World's a Stage." Production scheduled for Aug. 14th at 5 p.m. on the steps of Keating Hall. If you are within traveling distance we strongly recommend your attendance.

Thursday afternoons sessions, at four o'clock, when Broadway stage stars discuss methods with Seminar students, have proved extremely popular. July 23 Joseph Schildkraut and Eva LeGallienne from the current "Uncle Harry," (which by the way was written by a student of Yale Drama School) will be on hand; on July 30, Saroyan; and on August 6, Vincent Price and Judith Evelyn, who still play to crowded houses in "Angel Street." No wonder enthusiasm runs high among the registrants for the summer course.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. LAVERY

Emmet Lavery had hoped to reach New York in time to sit in on some of the discussions at Fordham in August, but another adaptation in Hollywood will keep him busy until he leaves to take up his new post as Resident Playwright at Smith College this fall.

Next summer will find Mr. Lavery back in California, and we think the Conference is to be congratulated in having a Chairman who can link so effectively Catholic Theater in East and West.

OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT

Therese Marie Cuny, our Chicago correspondent, is repeating this summer a course quite successful last year. Open only to high school seniors who show marked talent, the work is entirely creative. Final program presents an original one-act play and broadcast demonstration.

The dearth of men holds no fear for St. Procopius College Players who are casting about for new all-male productions for the coming year. Father Florian Herides, O.S.B., Director, who has produced such ambitious pieces as "Murder in the Cathedral" and "First Legion," includes in his plans for the coming year a newly revised version of "Brothers," which he wrote himself and originally produced in 1937.

RICHMOND, 1942 AND 1943

Mr. J. J. Cullather, former President of the Catholic Theater Guild of Richmond, has been appointed Local Chairman in charge of arrangement for the National Convention of the Conference, scheduled to be held at Richmond next year. Father O'Kane and Mr. Cullather are already hard at work on plans to make the national meeting a milestone in Conference history.

In the annual report for last season, circulated by the Guild, our attention is attracted by the note that eleven organizations profited financially through Theater Guild stage productions and sale of religious articles. We're certainly looking forward to our visit to Richmond so that we can discover personally how they can cram so many plays, parties, benefits, and spiritual exercises into their program.

C.Y.O. WINNER

Belated applause to the St. John CYO Drama Club of Whiting, Indiana, for its win of first place for the third consecutive year in the Ft. Wayne Diocesan One-Act Play Contest. The first award three years ago was given for their production of "Chiara," a play originally published in the Conference Bulletin.

Each year the St. John CYO group gives three major shows, one a musical.

EACH SHINING HOUR

At the Midwest Catholic Play Festival held this year at Des Moines' Dowling College, the Academy of the Holy Angels of Minneapolis received a rating of "Excellent" from the judges, Walter Kerr of CU, Ruth Kline, Marquette, and Edward Mabie, U. of Iowa, for their production of "White Queen, Red Queen." Then this active group went on to pre-publication production of Olive Price's "Ask for the Moon" (11 girls in the cast!) for seniors, and "Little Women" for the junior dramatic class. "Don't Take My Penny" was selected for the Class Play in May, and boys from nearby schools assisted.

And by this time Sister Charitas, C.S.J., the director, is undoubtedly looking around for new fields to conquer.

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CUE FOR JULY: Renewal Time

CAPTAIN JO MIELZINER

Our Vice-Chairman, Joe Mielziner is now serving with the Army Air Force at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. Captain Mielziner is able to make a real contribution to the war effort because of his wide experience in camouflage. All spring he was very active with the Camouflage Society of Stage Designers, a volunteer organization of leading designers in New York studying and experimenting in camouflage techniques. Who better than scene designers can deceive the eye with color, texture and perspective.

CATHOLIC THEATER, DETROIT

Mr. Paul Lilly is back, as Acting President of the Catholic Theater of Detroit this time. The story seems complicated, but as we understand it, it was touch and go between Mr. Sanchez (the President of the Detroit group this year), Mr. Lilly (the Vice-President), and the Army. But the Colonel gave the nod to Mr. Sanchez.

No light summer reading for members of the Catholic Theater of Detroit! With classes five nights a week -- Pantomime is a "must" -- the boys and girls are kept busy.

The financial report from Detroit, showing a total income of $16,587 and a balance of cash on hand of $1,976, and including a complete break-down of income and expense on each production through the year (we recommend it heartily as an ideal system) left us gasping at the achievements of this group that is only two years old.

When Dick Semler, one of their members, visited us recently in New York we had a chance to ask him how it was done. The answer is they work - and enjoy themselves - wholeheartedly. Two members are studying at the University of Michigan this summer on scholarships given by the group; four others received theater libraries, valued at $25 each, for outstanding contributions of acting, direction, and technical assistance. The Scholarships, to Miss Richards for acting and Miss Caren for stage design, are an investment for better productions. Long view planning!

THE INSIDE TRACK

One announcement for our reduced royalty list that we can't keep to ourselves until September is that "Heaven Can Wait" the play from which "Here Comes Mr. Jordan" was filmed, will be available at a reduced fee for Conference group members.

Wherever minor male parts could be transferred to women, this has been done in the published script now available from Dramatists Play Service.

Many inquiries have come to us regarding Emmet Lavery's "Murder in a Nunnery" which was so successfully produced by the Catholic Theater Guild of Los Angeles. Sorry, but release of the play is temporarily withheld pending negotiations with Hollywood and Broadway.

More news from Catholic University on its hits of the past season! "Count Me In," the musical by Leo Brady and Walter Kerr, is to be produced on Broadway this fall by Harry Kaufman for the Shuberts.

Mr. Kerr's play, "Art and Prudence," also premiered at the Catholic University Theater, has been picked up for New York production by Michael Myerberg, and it, too, is intended for this season.

"Brighton Rock," adapted from the Graham Greene novel by Messrs. Brady and Kerr, is controlled by Gilbert Miller but no production plans yet.

If any long-standing Conference member has a copy of Sister M. Constantia's translations of "The Sultan's Daughter" and "The Good Gardener" by Henri Gheon, will he be kind enough to notify us? Publishers of a Catholic High School text are eager to include these in a new volume, and have asked us for information.

BLACKFRIARS' GUILD, TROY

Frank Myers has been elected President of the Troy Blackfriars' Guild. Mr. Givney, former President and now Publicity Director, adds the note that Mr. Myers has appeared in every one of the ten plays presented during the Guild's three years - except one; he directed that.

Summer plans center about short production vehicles slanted to present world conditions, which may be used to meet increasing requests from other organizations for short patriotic programs.

NEW YORK TO CAMBRIDGE: Messrs. Gurney and Perry, director and leading actor of New York Blackfriars last season, as managers of Cambridge Summer Theater, will be hosts during week of Aug. 10 to the Margaret Webster-Paul Robeson "Othello" which, it is rumored, may come to Broadway in the fall.

RENEWAL TIME

Membership renewal time is here, and your secretary-treasurer will welcome your dues. Membership period extends from July 1 to June 30 of the following year....your cooperation in sending your dues promptly will allow us to plan during the summer our program for the coming year.

Tell others about the Conference, too. Remember, the more members we enroll, the more service the Conference will be able to give.

Among the first of our new members for the coming year is the Dramatic Association of St. Francis Xavier High School in New York. A ready welcome to Father H. A. Pfeiffer, S.J., and his cadets.

BROADWAY'S ANGEL STREET

If you have been tempted to consider "Angel Street" for your production season, we hasten to discourage you. Samuel French, who holds the rights, tells us it will not be released to amateurs for at least a year. The Broadway product is expected to live long.

DETROIT - THANKSGIVING, 1942

The Midwest Region continues to draw plans for the sectional meeting at Detroit over the Thanksgiving weekend. Mr. Daniel M. Sunday is serving as Vice - Chairman of the regional unit, and Miss Margaret Passmore as Secretary. Mr. Paul Lilly continues as Chairman.

LOS ANGELES FESTIVAL

The Catholic Theater Guild of Los Angeles has ambitiously scheduled a Festival of its own -- three plays on three successive weekends.

PRAYERS AND GOOD WISHES

Miss Catherine Musante, past Regional Chairman of San Francisco, has resigned her post for the Conference to enter Corpus Christi Dominican Convent at Menlo Park. Our heartfelt good wishes go with her, and our gratitude for her splendid work for Catholic Theater in California.

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MODEL ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST

If you are planning a one-act play festival, we heartily recommend the rules and arrangements set forth in a booklet issued for the Midwest Play Festival, which also includes a selected list of one-act plays for high schools.

The only provision we can find to quarrel with is the award of medals to individual actors. We quite agree with the certificates to "Superior" and "Excellent" groups, and it is most encouraging to note the special attention to critical discussion by the judges after performances.

COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE, DAYTON

June issue of the Marianist Magazine, The Apostle of Mary, pays tribute to the fine courage of Mr. C. J. Weaver and the small band of Blackfriars in Dayton. At the end of their third flourishing season now, this group has met all the obstacles in the game and safely passed them.

BALTIMORE PLAYSHOP

Loyola gave a new twist to its one-act play contest at the end of May. The class in playwriting outlined and discussed a fundamental plot; from the student scripts, three were selected for presentation, and the judges' decisions were based on 1) which author best handled the material in making a play; 2) which cast best presented the version it acted.

SAILING FOR SCRIPTS?

The New York Blackfriars, regardless of submarines, have been sailing. Whether they caught any new scripts during their trip, we haven't heard.

HOLLYWOOD SCORE

Twentieth Century has bought Werfel's "The Song of Bernadette," and already the picture is eagerly awaited. Charlie Chaplin has acquired "Shadow and Substance" for production, not to appear in himself. Selznick is still casting for Cronin's "Keys to the Kingdom," and there are rumors at Metro of a revival of "Quo Vadis."